

EDUCATION (PHD)

Program Description

School of Education Graduate Faculty (<https://spu.edu/academics/school-of-education/graduate-programs/graduate-faculty-staff/>)

School of Education Graduate Programs Website (<https://spu.edu/academics/school-of-education/graduate-programs/>)

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Education (<http://spu.edu/academics/school-of-education/graduate-programs/doctoral-programs/doctor-of-philosophy-education-phd/>) program is a post-master's, interdepartmental degree offered by the School of Education. It follows a low-residency model, with courses being offered online during the regular academic year and an on-campus component in summer.

The aim of this program is to educate and prepare scholars to serve as college and university-level educators who can effectively prepare teachers and conduct publishable research and other scholarly work. This PhD program emphasizes teaching and learning theory, research, teacher preparation, and university teaching.

Using the educational benefits of collaborative and cooperative learning combined with continued professional association, the program uses a cohort approach for core doctoral classes. Once admitted to the program, you proceed through these cohort courses as part of a group, following a defined schedule and sequence.

Because this is an interdepartmental degree, you select courses and learning experiences with the assistance of the director of doctoral studies from a variety of areas and opportunities in the School of Education, or from other schools within Seattle Pacific University (subject to approval by the School of Education Doctoral Committee).

Leadership Colloquium and Comprehensive Exams

After approximately one year of coursework, or 24 credits, you may register for EDU 7990 Leadership Colloquium. This requires you to write a scholarly paper and present that paper in a formal setting to the educational community.

Graduate faculty of the School of Education conduct an evaluation of the scholarship and Colloquium. The Leadership Colloquium must be taken before you can take the comprehensive exams.

Upon completion of all courses, you must pass two written comprehensive examinations. These examinations will cover the foundations and research components of the core courses. Successful completion of the comprehensive examination advances you to doctoral candidacy.

The Dissertation

The doctoral dissertation is the culminating experience in the PhD in Education degree. It is a scholarly inquiry into an area of professional and intellectual interest, and it is a highly individualized experience.

Working with faculty throughout the coursework and with a dissertation advisor, you will develop a research question and proposal. Using the expertise and knowledge developed in the research courses and under the direction of a faculty dissertation advisor and committee, you will conduct the research and produce a quality report of the findings. As a

final demonstration of scholarly competence, you will conduct an oral presentation and defense of the research.

While it is expected that the dissertation will follow standard accepted research methodologies and format, the topic of the research may vary depending on your professional goals, area of specialization, and the expertise of the faculty.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must submit the following items to Graduate Admissions (<http://spu.edu/prospects/grad/>).

- Online application (<http://admissions.spu.edu/apply/>) and \$50 application processing fee.
- Official transcripts documenting excellent undergraduate and graduate GPAs from an accredited institution where an academic degree was conferred. Include post-master's degree graduate coursework.
 - If your degree is not from a U.S. college or university, please arrange for your transcript to be evaluated by a NACES member (<http://www.naces.org/>)-recognized credential service. Acceptable credential services include, but are not limited to, World Education Services (<https://www.wes.org/>) (WES) and Foundation for International Services (<https://www.fis-web.com/>) (FIS).
- Personal statement (no more than 500 words) expressing your professional plans, goals, and focus of study, as well as a rationale for pursuing a PhD in Education.
- Four recent letters of recommendation, including two academic and two professional recommendations.
- Writing sample that demonstrates graduate-level writing skills.
- Résumé documenting a minimum of three years of successful professional experience in an educational setting (P-12, higher education, or other related setting).

Following the submission of all of these items, your file will be reviewed by the core graduate faculty. You will be contacted regarding the status of your application, and to schedule an interview, within approximately two weeks.

All correspondence regarding the interview process will be carried out by email using the address you provide in the application. Please set your email filters accordingly.

Grade Point Average

A minimum 3.2 overall GPA is required for graduation.

Degree Completion

All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed within five years from the quarter the first post-admission course was taken. Students needing more than five years to complete the degree must file a time-extension petition with the director of doctoral programs.

Contact

If you have questions about graduate education or certification programs:

- Email: gradadmissions@spu.edu
- Phone: 206-281-2091

Prerequisite Coursework

Depending on your educational background, the following prerequisites may be required for the doctoral degree.

Code	Title	Credits
EDU 7300	Introduction to Educational Research and Statistics	3
EDU 6975	Interpreting and Applying Educational Research I	3
EDU 6976	Interpreting and Applying Educational Research II	3
EDU 6655	Human Development and Principles of Learning	3
EDU 6524	Curriculum Design	3
EDU 6526	Survey of Instructional Strategies	3

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90 Credits Minimum

Code	Title	Credits
Foundations and Instructional Leadership		
EDU 6085	Moral and Theological Issues in Education	3
EDU 6120	American Education: Past and Present	3
EDU 7101	Instructional Theory	3
EDU 7102	Curriculum Theory	3
EDU 7106	Trends and Research in Global Education ¹	3
EDU 7108	Access and Equity in Education	3
EDU 7115	Advances in Educational Psychology	3
EDU 7120	Educational Organizations and Systems	3
EDU 7910	Seminar in Educational Values	3
EDU 7930	University Teaching Practicum Seminar	3
EDU 7990	Leadership Colloquium	3
Section Credits Required		33
Inquiry and Dissertation		
EDU 7107	Program Evaluation	3
EDU 7110	Advances in Educational Assessment	3
EDU 7972	Quantitative Research Design I: Linear Models and Regression Analyses	3
EDU 7973	Quantitative Research Design II: Univariate, Multivariate Analyses Nonparametric Models	3
EDU 7974	Qualitative Research Design	3
EDU 7976	Advanced Topics in Research Methods and Designs	3
EDU 7991	Dissertation Orientation	1
EDU 7995	Doctoral Dissertation ²	1
Section Credits Required		36
Electives		
Select 21 credits, which may include the following:		21
EDU 6524	Curriculum Design	
EDU 6526	Survey of Instructional Strategies	
EDU 6613	Standards-based Assessment	
EDU 7300	Introduction to Educational Research and Statistics	
EDU 7900	Independent Study	
EDU 7977	Seminar: Research Methods and Statistics Review	
EDU 7978	Seminar: Review of Theory and Research in Curriculum and Instruction/Foundations	

Section Credits Required	21
Total Credits	90

¹

If taken twice, can apply 3 credits to electives.

²

Repeat to reach 17 credits.

Additional Requirements and Information

- Two Comprehensive Exams
- Dissertation Defense